

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 03889 211428Z
ACTION AF-10

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FOR IOP/M

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E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION

THERE WAS YET ANOTHER EXCHANGE OF MACHINEGUN AND SMALL
ARMS FIRE AT ZIMBABWE HOUSE HERE IN THE EARLY HOURS OF TUESDAY
MORNING, IT HAS BEEN REPORTED HERE.

THE TIMES OF ZAMBIA REPORTS THAT ZAPU FIGHTERS WERE ENGAGED
IN THE PRE-DAWN GUNBATTLE, THE SECOND IN TWO CONSEQUITIVE DAYS.
A SPOKESMAN FOR ZAMPU, JOSHUA NKOMO'S WING OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT,
BLAMED THE ATTACK ON AGENTS OF REBEL LEADER IAN SMITH, THOUGH
OTHER SOURCES CALL THE ATTACKS "INTERNAL AFFAIRS."
THE FIRST ATTACK ON ZIMBABWE HOUSE, ZAMBIAN HEADQUARTERS OF
ZAPU, WAS ON MONDAY NIGHT. THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES IN EITHER
INCIDENT CARRIED OUT BY AS YET UNIDENTIFIED ATTACKERS.
THE TIMES OF ZAMBIA REPORTS THAT THE MATTER IS NOW IN
THE HANDS OF THE ZAMBIAN DEFENSE MINISTRY WHICH IS
INVESTIGATING THE INCIDENTS, ACCORDING TO DEFENSE UNDER-
SECRETARY, SIPO MUDENDA.
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YESTERDAY'S ATTACK LASTED FIVE MINUTES.
THE PAPER QUOTES A ZAPU SPOKESMAN AS SAYING: "THERE WAS
ANOTHER ATTEMPT BY SMITH'S AGENTS TO OVERRUN OUR ESTABLISH-
MENT LAST NIGHT. BUT AGAIN OUR VIGILANT CADRES SUCCESSFULLY
REPULSED THE ENEMY.

WHEN ASKED IF THE ATTACKERS MAY NOT HAVE BEEN FROM OTHER NATIONALIST CAMPS, THE SPOKESMAN REPORTEDLY REPLIED THAT THERE WAS NO DOUBT THEY WERE "SMITH'S AGENTS" NOTING THAT IN ALL THE PREVIOUS ATTACKS ON ZAPU, THE ORGANIZATION HAD BLAMED MR. SMITH AND THAT THERE WAS NO REASON NOW TO SHIFT THE BLAME TO OTHER "SO-CALLED NATIONALISTS."

HE ALSO DENIED THAT THE INCIDENTS WERE AN INTERNAL AFFAIR SPARKED BY TRIBAL DISSENSIONS. BUT, ACCORDING TO THE TIMES, RELIABLE SOURCES SAID THE TWO RECENT INCIDENTS WERE AN INTERNAL AFFAIR. THE TIMES SOURCES REPORTEDLY CLAIMED THAT THERE IS IN-FIGHTING BETWEEN THE KALANGA AND THE NDEBELE MEMBERS OF ZAPU. ZAPU LEADER MR. NKOMO IS HIMSELF A KALANGA.

THE PAPER SAYS ITS SOURCES THAT SINCE THE ASSASSINATION OF ZAPU DEPUTY LEADER, JASON MOYO IN A BOMB EXPLOSION HERE LAST YEAR, THERE HAS BEEN SOME FRICTION.

THE TIMES ALSO CARRIES A FRONT PAGE REPORT SAYING THAT ITS REPORTER, PHOTOGRAPHER AND A DRIVER INVESTIGATING THE ATTACKS ON ZIMBABWE HOUSE WERE YESTERDAY DETAINED AND HARASSED BY ZAPU FIGHTERS.

ACCORDING TO THE PAPER, ONLY QUICK ACTION BY ZAMBIAN POLICE WHO RUSHED TO THE PLACE SAVED THE THREE MEN.
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THE TRIO REPORTED THAT THEIR CAPTORS ALLEGEDLY ACCUSED THE TIMES OF ZAMBIA OF BEING "ANTI-ZAPU." TWO OF THEM WERE LAST NIGHT REPORTEDLY TREATED AT LUSAKA'S UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL FOR INJURIES SUSTAINED DURING THEIR THREE AND HALF HOUR ORDEAL AT THE HANDS OF ZAPU FREEDOM FIGHTERS.

BOTH THE TIMES OF ZAMBIA AND THE ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL REPORT THAT THE ZAMBIA-ZAIRE JOINT PERMANENT COMMISSION IS TO MEET HERE ON DECEMBER 26 TO DISCUSS AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE PROBLEM OF THE PEDICLE ROAD AND SMUGGLING AT THE BORDERS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES.

THE DECISION TO CONVENE THE MEETING WAS REACHED AT A TWO-HOUR MEETING OF PRESIDENT KAUNDA AND ZAIRE'S MOBUTU SESE SEKO IN MBALA, IN NORTHERN ZAMBIA YESTERDAY.

THE DECEMBER 26 MEETING COMES IN THE WAKE OF WORSENING RELATIONS BETWEEN ZAMBIA AND ZAIREAN NATIONALS BECAUSE OF ALLEGED CONSTANT HARRASSMENT BY ZAIREANS OF ZAMBIANS TRAVELLING ON THE PEDICLE ROAD TO ZAMBIA'S LUAPULA PROVINCE.

ALSO REVIEWED AT THE TWO LEADERS' MEETING WAS SAID TO HAVE BEEN THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN SITUATION, RHODESIA AND THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS. ACCORDING TO THE TWO NEWSPAPERS, BOTH DR. KAUNDA AND PRESIDENT MOBUTU EXPRESSED THEIR BELIEF THAT ONLY THE INTENSIFICATION OF THE ARMED STRUGGLE WOULD LIBERATE ZIMBABWE (RHODESIA).

BOTH NEWSPAPERS ALSO REPORT THAT UNITED NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE PARTY (UNIP) SECRETARY-GENERAL, GREY ZULU, HAS SAID THAT CRITICS OF THE PARTY AND GOVERNMENT POLICY ON THE LIBERATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA ARE WASTING THEIR TIME BECAUSE ZAMBIA WILL STILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN THE REGION.

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MR. ZULU MADE THESE REMARKS IN LIVINGSTONE YESTERDAY.
ITEM USIS LUSAKA.
LOW

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